

REMARKS

Claims 35-42 and 42-51 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 35, 44, 45, and 49 are amended and claims 43 and 52 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added.

In the Office Action, claims 35-37, 39-40, 45-47 and 49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0065709 to MacKenzie in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,029,195 to Herz; claims 38, 41, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over MacKenzie in view of Herz 195, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,606,615 to Jennings; and claims 43-44, 48 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over MacKenzie in view of Herz 195 and Jennings, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,070,143 to Barney. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 35 is amended to incorporate aspects of canceled claim 43 and recites, *inter alia*, that the awareness data has knowledge assets and feature assets, the knowledge assets are temporal knowledge assets that indicate how the knowledge assets will change from present to a future time, and the feature assets are related to work styles of the users. Additionally, claim 35 recites a generating unit that generates a community based on the analyzed awareness data to serve as a platform for knowledge circulation based upon knowledge and working manners within an organization. Independent method claim 45 and independent product claim 49 are similarly amended. These features are supported, for example, in Applicants' specification at page 3, lines 10-26, page 4, lines 4-9, page 29, lines 1-12, and page 30, lines 1-25.

MacKenzie obtains various worker information in the form of Employee Opinion Surveys and uses this information to correlate information and assist in organizational management. However, the referenced "splits" in MacKenzie in paragraph [0039] are predefined, such as gender-based, and not based on awareness data. Thus, MacKenzie fails to

create a "community based on the analyzed awareness data" as recited. Moreover, there is no enhancement of the knowledge base or information circulation generated and clearly no knowledge circulation that is based on knowledge and working manners within an organization as claimed.

Newly applied Herz 195 fails to overcome the deficiencies of MacKenzie with respect to independent claims 35, 45 and 49. Cols. 80-93 of Herz are directed to matching of user preferences, user interests (col. 80, line 44, col. 87, line 44), personnel qualifications, psychographics and attributes pertaining to the user's profile as developed from his/her professional on-line activities and interactions (col. 92, lines 1-35) to create "virtual communities" and "virtual organizations" for discussions on computer bulletin boards, newsgroups, mailing lists, and chat sessions, videoconferences, etc. (col. 80, lines 1-8).

However, this merely links people with common interests to a communication network. Herz does not analyze awareness data that has knowledge assets and feature assets, where the knowledge assets are temporal knowledge assets that indicate how the knowledge assets will change from present time to a future time, and the feature assets are related to work styles of the users as claimed. Thus, Herz does not automatically generate a community based on the analyzed awareness data to serve as a platform for knowledge circulation based upon knowledge and working manners within an organization as claimed.

Jennings also fails to overcome the deficiencies of MacKenzie. Jennings merely permits users to submit predictions of future events, but does not use this as part of a knowledge-based management system to enhance knowledge assets or generate a "community" to facilitate knowledge circulation based on knowledge and working manners within an organization.

Barney also fails to overcome the deficiencies of MacKenzie. Barney analyzes work-oriented or worker-oriented data, but for the purpose of linking resources to jobs. This does

not assist in generation of community through a linking of worker knowledge and feature assets or enhance knowledge circulation based on knowledge and working manners within an organization as claimed.

Accordingly, independent claims 35, 45 and 49 are patentably distinct from the applied art, and are allowable. Dependent claims 36-42, 44, 46-48, and 50-51 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claims and for the additional features recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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